

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, September 8, 2004 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Senator Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Brad Dee
Rep. Craig W. Butters
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. Neil A. Hansen

Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Todd E. Kiser

Members Absent:

Sen. David L. Gladwell
Sen. Paula Julander

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.leg.utah.gov or by contacting the task force secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting may also be available from the task force secretary.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Sen. Julander was excused from the meeting. Chair Walker indicated that the October 13 meeting of the Task Force will be held in the Ogden area.

MOTION: Sen. Killpack moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee and Rep. Hendrickson absent for the vote.

2. UDOT Reports Based on Recommendations of the 2003 Transportation Planning Task Force Report

Mr. John Njord, UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation), distributed "Report to the Transportation Planning Task Force."

Mr. Carlos Braceras discussed CHF (Centennial Highway Fund) projects as funded by the 2004 Legislature. He pointed out that the total of all CHF projects equals over \$1.8 billion.

Mr. Njord commented on some of the critical highway needs statewide. He discussed the current project prioritization selection process and long-range plan coordination. He pointed out that there is an integral connection between land use development and transportation planning.

Mr. Braceras discussed maintenance requirements which include preventive and proactive maintenance. By the year 2015, the overall cost of maintenance will increase from \$144 million to \$226 million. Mr. Braceras reviewed S.B. 11, Guidelines for Local Matching Dollars for Transportation Projects, and distributed "Local Government Funding Participation Proposal/Decision Process."

Mr. Glen Brown, Transportation Commission, expressed his concern with local governments seeking taxing authority for transportation purposes promising a state matched commitment which has not been

made.

3. Joint Recommendations of the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns), distributed copies and gave a slide presentation titled "Red Light – Green Light The Stop and Go of Transportation Funding in Utah." He said ULCT has put together a tax team to gather information from representatives of the transportation community, quantify the scope of the transportation problem, and find potential funding solutions. He outlined some potential legislative recommendations.

Mr. Roger Tew, Sales Tax Analyst, ULCT, discussed the comparative sales tax rates charts contained in the handout. Currently the sales tax forms the primary basis for the General Fund. He indicated that there is a need to look at the aggregate sales tax.

Mr. Brent Gardner, UAC (Utah Association of Counties), commented that from a statewide perspective, the needs are obvious. However, UAC is concerned that nonurban areas will perhaps be left out of the process. He noted that some nonurban areas lack the ability to generate revenue.

4. Report on Studies on the Effects of Implementing Regional Transit Plans

Ms. Pamela Perlich, Ph.D., Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Utah, distributed a copy of her presentation "Economic and Demographic Impacts of Federally Financed Transportation Infrastructure on the Wasatch Front." She pointed out that the \$14.4 billion planned capacity improvements to the Wasatch Front transportation system will significantly affect regional economic development. Federal spending on these projects expands the size of the Utah economy and makes it possible for more people to live and work in the state.

Mr. Paul Bay, Utah Transit Authority, explained that in preparing the report, a more conservative assumption was made in considering the amount of federal money that would be received for these projects.

Mr. Ted Knowlton, Envision Utah, indicated that a number of studies have been done on the effects of transportation. He introduced the individuals from Cambridge Systematics, Inc. who would be addressing the study commissioned by Envision Utah

Mr. Chris Wornum, Cambridge Systematics, Inc., distributed a copy of his presentation. He stated that according to the long-range plan, the change in annual transit ridership by county will add 22.4 million riders in the year 2030. He reviewed the benefits of transit investment. He noted the potential for nearly \$160 million in annual user benefits in the year 2030.

Mr. Dan Hodge, Cambridge Systematics, Inc., commented on the regional economic impacts of transit changes in employment, personal income, and gross regional product by 2030.

Mr. Steve Kroes, Utah Foundation, stated that the analysis and conclusions of the Cambridge Systematics, Inc. study are reasonable. He distributed a copy of his presentation "Transportation Funding Along the Wasatch Front." He outlined the reasons why funding alternatives should be explored.

Dr. Rex Facer, Professor, Brigham Young University, stated that gas tax revenues have declined over time. Gas tax revenue per vehicle mile has been declining since the late 1980s. He reviewed the fuel, sales, and property tax alternatives that the Utah Foundation has considered.

5. Follow-up Reports and Updates

Due to lack of time this item will be considered at a future meeting.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.